(a) whether it is a fact that enormous expenditure is incurred for propagating Hindi in the nationalised banks and if so what is the amount spent for the same upto the year 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expenditure of nationalised banks has shown a steep rise; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken to minimise the expenditure on administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that nationalised banks do not make separate allocation for implementation of the official language (Hindi) policy. The expenditure on this item is included under establishment and other administrative expenditure.

(b) and (c) The expenditure figures of nationalised banks for the last three years do not indicate a steep rise. However, Reserve Bank of India have been impressing upon the banks the need for economising expenditure.

Request for Soft loan by UCO Bank to Reserve Bank of India

1784. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UCO bank has sought a Rs. 500 crore soft loan from Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, when did Government recognise the sickness in UCO bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not received any such request from UCO Bank.

(b) Performance of public sector banks is reviewed by the Government and Reserve Bank of India on an on-going basis. UCO Bank reported losses in their Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the first time for the year 1989-90.

Drug Trafficking in North Eastern Region

1785. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the whole of North Eastern Region and especially Barak Valley has turned into a hunting ground for drug traffickers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that police arrested a number of drug traffickers having link with international drug trafficking gang; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of closing date of remittance of foreign exchange scheme

1786. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 394 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state:

(a) whether there has been any demand for extending 'Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme' beyond 30th November, 1991 the original closing date; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme, 1991 has since been extended upto 31st January, 1992 and a Notification to this effect has also been issued and laid on the Table of the House on 27th November, 1991.

Recovery of IDBI advances in schemes of Indirect Assistance

1787. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total advance of IDBI under various schemes of indirect assistance;

(b) what is the recovery rate with scheme-wise details; and

(c) what steps have been taken to augment the recovery rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) provides indirect assistance under its Refinance Schemes and Bills Rediscounting Scheme. The total loans outstanding under these schemes as on 30th of September, 1991 is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Outstandings
Refinance Schemes	204656
Bills Rediscounting Scheme	234015

(b) While the recovery rate under the Bills Rediscounting Scheme is 100 per cent, the recovery rate under Refinance Schemes has been between 99-100 per cent.

(c) Does not arise as the recovery rate for IDBI is perceived to be excellent.

Seizures by customs at Airports

1788. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of customs seizures of Gold, Silver and Narcotics from each of the major airports in the country during the current financial year and the market value thereof; and

(b) what is the manner in which these are being disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The number of seizures of gold, silver and narcotic drugs/Psychotropic substances effected by Customs authorities at each of the major airports located at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras during the current financial year and the value of Gold and Silver and the quantity of different Narcotic drugs/Psychotropic substances seized are given in the table below: